

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01

LAB-04 EB-07 COME-00 HEW-02 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10

TRSE-00 /086 W

----- 080809

R 072116Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4154

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, DR

SUBJ: DOCTORS STRIKE

REF: SD 2740

1. ON JULY 4 DOMINICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DOCTORS AND NATIONAL NURSES UNION EMPLOYEES BEGAN STRIKE AGAINST STATE-OPERATED HOSPITALS. MOST MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE SUPPORTING STRIKE AND GOVERNMENT HAS HAD TO STAFF HOSPITALS WITH MILITARY DOCTORS. BECAUSE OF RELATIVELY LIMITED NUMBER OF PATIENTS ON WEEKEND, MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE SITUATION. HOWEVER, NORMAL INFLUX OF FAR LARGER NUMBER OF PATIENTS ON MONDAY WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO ALL PATIENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS PRESENTED LONG LIST OF DEMANDS, MAJOR ISSUE IS ECONOMIC. BOTH DOCTORS AND NURSES WANT HIGHER SALARIES. GOVERNMENT APPEARS RELUCTANT TO GRANT INCREASES AND PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS REFUSED TO MEET WITH STRIKERS' REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL STRIKE IS CALLED OFF. THERE HAS BEEN, HOWEVER, NO VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE STRIKE.

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3. COMMENT. AS DOCTORS ARE ONE OF FEW ORGANIZED GROUPS

IN COUNTRY WITH SUFFICIENT RESOURCES AND PRESTIGE TO
LAUNCH NATIONWIDE STRIKE, THE GOVERNMENT MAY FACE SERIOUS
PRESSURE TO ACCEDE TO SOME OF THEIR SALARY DEMANDS, EVEN
THOUGH DEMANDS CONTRAVENE BALAGUER'S STATED POSITION OF
FREEZE ON GOVERNMENT SALARIES AS REPORTED REFTEL.
HURWICH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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